

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 SIG-03
AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 AF-10
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IEA

SUBJ: ENERGY: IEA/SLT MEETING ON ENERGY CONSERVATION IN THE BUILDING SECTOR

1. THE STANDING GROUP ON LONG TERM COOPERATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (IEA/SLT) HELD AN EXPERTS' MEETING ON ENERGY CONSERVATION IN THE BUILDING SECTOR ON MAY 24-26. MR. CHARLES FICNER, CANADA, WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING.

2. THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING WERE TO SUMMARIZE EXISTING CONSERVATION POLICIES IN THE BUILDING SECTOR IN IEA COUNTRIES AND IDENTIFY CONSTRAINTS FOR IMPROVING EXISTING PRACTICES AND POLICY LINES OF ACTION TO HELP OVERCOME SUCH CONSTRAINTS.

3. IN 1976, IEA COUNTRIES CONSUMED 789 MILLION TONS OF OIL EQUIVALENT (MTOE) IN THE RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL SECTOR, SOME 32.4 PERCENT OF TOTAL FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION. OIL CONSUMPTION ACCOUNTED FOR 310 MTOE OR 39 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL. MEMBER COUNTRIES PROJECT ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN THIS SECTOR TO INCREASE TO 860 MTOE IN 1980 AND 950 MTOE IN 1985. ANNUAL ENERGY GROWTH RATES PROJECTED FOR THE 1976-85 PERIOD ARE 1.4 PERCENT, MUCH LOWER THAN HISTORIC AVERAGES.

PRINCIPAL REASONS CITED FOR THE IMPROVED ENERGY OUTLOOK IN THE RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL SECTOR WERE IMPROVED UNCLASSIFIED

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MANDATORY BUILDING CODES WITH MINIMUM INSULATION STANDARDS, FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR ENCOURAGING RETROFITTING IN EXISTING BUILDINGS, INCREASED FUEL AND ELECTRICITY PRICES, GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE PERSONAL AND PUBLIC SAVINGS ACCRUING FROM MORE EFFICIENT USE OF ENERGY, THE ADOPTION OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION STANDARDS AND/OR LABELING FOR MAJOR APPLIANCES.

4. THE UNITED STATES CONSUMED 404 MTOE OF ENERGY IN THE RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL SECTOR IN 1976, SOME 31.4 PERCENT OF TOTAL FINAL CONSUMPTION. OF THIS TOTAL, OIL PROVIDED 104 MTOE, SOLIDS 6.3 MTOE, NATURAL GAS 189.7 MTOE, AND ELECTRICITY 104 MTOE. BY 1985, FUEL UTILIZED IN THIS SECTOR IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO 454 MTOE, AN ANNUAL AVERAGE RATE OF INCREASE OF 1.3 PERCENT. SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS IN THE US PROGRAM INCLUDE: MANDATORY THERMAL EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR NEW BUILDINGS (FOR ADOPTION BY 1979), SIGNIFICANT TAX CREDITS FOR RETROFITTING EXISTING HOMES (INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM), A GRANT WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM FOR RETROFITTING HOMES OWNED BY UNDERPRIVILEGED, GOVERNMENT-DEVELOPED STANDARDS FOR INSULATION MATERIAL AND INSTALLATION OF SUCH MATERIAL,

MANDATORY APPLIANCE LABELLING, ENERGY EFFICIENCY TARGETS FOR APPLIANCES, FREE ENERGY AUDITS FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND A GRANT PROGRAM FOR RETROFITTING SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS.

5. DELEGATES AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING: (MAJOR CONCLUSIONS ONLY)

A. NEW BUILDINGS

(A) ENERGY BUILDING CODES SHOULD BE REQUIRED FOR ALL NEW BUILDINGS

(B) CODES SHOULD BE BASED ON WHAT IS ECONOMICALLY JUSTIFIED AT REPLACEMENT ENERGY COSTS.

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(C) THERE SHOULD BE DIFFERENT LEVELS (TYPES) OF CODES FOR DIFFERENT TYPES AND USES OF BUILDINGS.

(D) CODES SHOULD ULTIMATELY COVER ALL ELEMENTS AFFECTING ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN BUILDINGS.

(E) CODES WILL NORMALLY RESULT IN ONLY A SLIGHT COST INCREASE IN NEW HOUSING, AND OFTEN NO INCREASE AT ALL IN LARGER BUILDINGS.

(F) GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES ARE GENERALLY NOT REQUIRED TO OFFSET CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

(G) CODES SHOULD BE PERIODICALLY REVIEWED AND STRENGTHENED AS APPROPRIATE.

(H) PUBLIC BUILDINGS CAN SERVE AS A USEFUL EXPERIMENTAL GROUND FOR DEVELOPING STRONGER CODE LEVELS.

(I) SOLAR ENERGY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS FREE ENERGY IN BUILDING CODES AND PASSIVE SOLAR ENERGY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ENERGY CODES FOR BUILDINGS.

(J) GIVEN A REASONABLE LEAD-TIME, INDUSTRY WILL BE ABLE TO ADAPT TO UNDERSTANDABLE ENERGY CODES, WHILE DESIGNERS SHOULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE FREEDOM TO EXPLORE NEW WAYS OF PRODUCING EFFICIENT BUILDING TYPES.

B. EXISTING BUILDINGS

(A) THERE IS A NEED FOR SOME FORM OF GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERVENTION TO ENSURE THAT THE EXISTING HOUSING STOCK IS ENERGY EFFICIENT.

(B) INFORMATION PROGRAMS ARE ESSENTIAL BUT GENERALLY ARE NOT SUFFICIENT. GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS OFTEN REQUIRED TO ENCOURAGE HOME-OWNERS, TENANTS, OR COMMERCIAL BUILDING OWNERS TO MAKE NECESSARY RETROFITTING INVESTMENTS.

(C) ENERGY PRICES SHOULD BE INCREASED TO REFLECT MARGINAL REPLACEMENT COST TO ENCOURAGE RETROFIT ACTIONS.

(D) FINANCIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAMS GENERALLY BRING A HIGH LEVEL OF PUBLIC RESPONSE.

(E) TRAINED ADVISORS AND INSTALLERS OF ENERGY EFFICIENT MATERIALS ARE ESSENTIAL TO AVOID IMPROPER INSTALLATION OF MATERIALS WHICH COULD RESULT IN SAFETY HAZARDS (CORROSION, FIRE, ETC).

(F) INDIVIDUALS APPEAR TO APPLY VERY HIGH PERSONAL DISCOUNT RATES TO RETROFIT INVESTMENTS.

(G) ELECTRIC AND FOSSIL FUEL BURNING HEATING APPLIANCES SHOULD BE LABELLED ACCORDING TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY. COUNTRIES MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MANDATORY ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR MAJOR APPLIANCES.

6. THE CHAIRMAN AGREED TO DRAFT A REPORT INCORPORATING THE ABOVE CONCLUSIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CONSERVATION SUBGROUP. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EXPERTS' GROUP WILL BE HELD IN ABOUT A YEAR. VANCE

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